

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 8, 2009, at 10 a.m. in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 8, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing on VA/DOD Response to Certain Military Exposures. The Committee will meet in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 8, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES, AND BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and Border Security, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 8, 2009, at 3 p.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Comprehensive Immigration Reform: Faith-Based Perspectives."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing on October 8, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ANNIVERSARY OF NEVADA'S STATEHOOD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 309, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 309) recognizing and celebrating the 145th anniversary of the entry of Nevada into the Union as the 36th State.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, does my distinguished colleague from Nevada wish to speak on this matter?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I just want to applaud the senior Senator from Nevada, the leader of the Senate, for this resolution recognizing the 145th anniversary of Nevada's statehood.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as it approaches Halloween, which is the real day, I will have more to say on this resolution.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table; that there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 309) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 309

Whereas October 31, 2009, marks the 145th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's proclamation admitting Nevada into the Union as the 36th State;

Whereas Nevadans celebrate the anniversary of "Battle Born" statehood every year as Nevada Day;

Whereas Nevada's State motto is "All for Our Country", reflecting the patriotism and sense of duty demonstrated by countless Nevadans since the State's entrance into the Union;

Whereas Nevada's brave veterans and service members have made critical contributions to our Nation's security in times of war and of peace;

Whereas the Henderson magnesium mines and the Nevada Test Site played key roles in the United States' victories during World War II and the Cold War, respectively;

Whereas Nevada is honored to host our Nation's Armed Forces at Nellis Air Force Base, Creech Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Fallon, and the Hawthorne Army Depot, as well as National Guard Armories and Reserve Readiness Centers throughout the State;

Whereas Nevada is a premier destination for tourists, business travelers, family vacationers, and outdoor enthusiasts throughout the United States and around the globe;

Whereas Nevada's unique features attract vacationers and locals alike, including the pastoral Washoe Valley, the crags of the Ruby Mountains, the "Biggest Little City in the World", the Las Vegas Strip, the Hoover Dam, Lovers Lock Plaza, and the annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering;

Whereas mining became an important industry to the Silver State with the 1859 discovery of the Comstock Lode, the most valuable deposit of silver in the Nation;

Whereas Nevada produces more gold than all other States combined and is one of the largest sources of gold in the world;

Whereas the entrepreneurial spirit of Nevadans is reflected in a versatile economy, from the world's largest gaming establishments to small businesses that make up the vast majority of Nevada's employers;

Whereas Nevada has a rich cultural heritage that draws from diverse populations, from multi-generational ranching families to new residents, from Hispanic Americans to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and from Basque communities to Mormon pioneers;

Whereas Nevada recognizes the language, culture, and generosity of Nevada's first dwellers, the Northern and Southern Paiutes, Shoshone, and Washoe peoples;

Whereas Nevada celebrates Thocmontony, or Sarah Winnemucca, the first Native American woman to author a publication in English, whose statue graces Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center;

Whereas the snow-capped mountains of Nevada (pronounced Neváda) were the inspiration for the Spanish origin of its name;

Whereas Nevada offers beautiful outdoor settings ranging from vibrant desert landscapes to grand ski slopes, and from picturesque hiking trails to flowing river currents;

Whereas Lake Tahoe is one of the deepest and clearest alpine lakes in the world, and Lake Mead is the largest engineered reservoir in the United States;

Whereas Nevada is home to Great Basin National Park, 17 State parks, 2 national forests, and 3,400,000 acres of wilderness, including Sloan Canyon, Red Rock Canyon, and Black Rock Desert;

Whereas Nevada exemplifies the independence, opportunity, and pioneering spirit of the West; and

Whereas Nevada's delegation to the 111th Congress—Senator Harry Reid, Senator John Ensign, Representative Shelley Berkley, Representative Dean Heller, and Representative Dina Titus—invite all to join in the celebration of Nevada statehood: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and celebrates the 145th anniversary of the entry of Nevada into the Union as the 36th State.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and that the Agriculture Committee be discharged en bloc of the following: PN486, PN620, PN831, PN789, PN817, PN818, PN925, PN926, PN1021, PN1022; and that the Senate then proceed en bloc to their consideration; that the nominations be confirmed and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order and any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Bartholomew Chilton, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2013.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Edward M. Avalos, of New Mexico, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION

Edward M. Avalos, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Jill Sommers, of Kansas, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2014.